

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application for further consideration. The specification is amended as set forth above to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 1-3, 14-16 and 20 are amended as set forth above to correct minor typographical errors, and not to overcome any basis of rejection. As such, it is believed that none of the subject matter of the claims has been limited. New claims 21 - 26 are added. No new matter has been added.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,758,689 B1 issued to Bair et al. ("Bair"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection for the reasons that follow below.

Bair simply does not teach or otherwise suggest all of the limitations set forth by Applicants' claims 1-20. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are independent claims, while claims 2-18 depend upon and further limit claim 1.

Applicants' claim 1 specifically recites the following elements that are not taught or suggested by the Bair reference:

"*a pass-through interface body that is configured to enclose the pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port*" (Emphasis added).

"...*a blocking member, wherein the blocking member is arranged to block the first port in the pass-through interface device when the antenna housing is in a first position, and wherein the blocking member is clear from the first port when the antenna housing is in a second position.*" (Emphasis added).

App. No. 10/607,828
Amendment Dated December 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

Applicants' claim 19 specifically recites the following elements that are not taught or suggested by the Bair reference:

"*a first means for enclosing that is arranged to enclose the pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port*" (Emphasis added).

"*a means for blocking that is arranged to block the first port when the first port is disengaged from operation; and a means for orienting that is arranged to maintain the orientation of the antenna away from the first port when the first port is engaged in operation*" (Emphasis added).

Applicants' claim 20 specifically recites the following steps that are not taught or suggested by the Bair reference:

"*enclosing the pass-through interface device in a pass-through interface body*" (Emphasis added), and

"*blocking the first port when the antenna housing is longitudinally aligned with the pass-through interface body in a first position; urging the antenna housing from the first position to a second position such that the first port is accessible; and maintaining the antenna housing in the second position when the first port is engaged in operation*" (Emphasis added).

The preamble of claim 20 further defines the pass-through interface as having:

"*a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port*" (Emphasis added).

None of the cited references teach all of the limitations that are recited in Applicants' claims 1, 19 and 20. Moreover, the Bair reference does not teach or otherwise suggest all of the aforementioned limitations. Instead, Bair teaches a "wireless adapter having a connector and a loop antenna in which the loop antenna is foldable, to surround the sides and front face of the connector and thereby protect the connector *when the connector is disconnected from the host device.*" (See Bair at Col. 1, lines 53-57, Emphasis added). Moreover, column 3, lines 33-37 of Bair do not teach "a pass through interface body ...

App. No. 10/607,828
Amendment Dated December 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

[including] a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port" as propounded in the Office Action. Instead, Bair describes that "FIG. 2a illustrates a top angled view of adapter 10 shown in FIG. 1 in an opened position." (See Bair at col. 3, lines 33-34). Bair continues by stating that the "[b]ody 20 includes first and second ends 23 and 25 and opposite sides 21.", and that "[c]onnector 22 extends out from first end 23 of body 20 and has a front connector face 29." (See Bair at Col. 3, lines 34-37).

Succinctly stated, Bair does not teach any structure that would allow an auxiliary device to be connected to the adapter, and Bair fails to teach the blocking member and steps for using the blocking member as set forth in Applicants' claims 1, 19 and 20. Accordingly, none of the cited references anticipate claims 1, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 2 - 18 depend upon and further limit claim 1, and should be allowable for at least those reasons stated above regarding claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 - 20 are in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

II. New Claims 21 - 26.

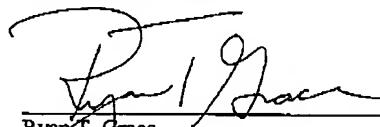
Claims 21 - 26 are added for consideration in the present application. With respect to claims 21 - 26, Applicants assert that: their limitations are not taught or otherwise suggest by the prior art of record, they do not constitute new matter, and that consideration of these claims should not require a further search for proper consideration. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 21 - 26.

App. No. 10/607,828
Amendment Dated December 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Ryan T. Grace

Registration No. 52,956
Direct Dial: 206.342.6258

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

27488

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE